

In re Patent Application of:  
**BORDEN LARSON, et al**  
Serial No. **10/689,557**  
Filing Date: **10/20/2003**

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### Remarks

Applicant and the undersigned would like to thank the Examiner for his efforts in the examination of this application. Claims 1-5 remain in the case. New claims 6-16 are added by this amendment.

Claims 1 and 3-5 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 3,034,470 to Vanderfeltz et al. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanderfeltz '470 in view of US Patent No. 3,890,918 to Sell.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly present the invention and show clear distinction over the teaching of the prior art. As illustrated by way of example with reference to Vanderfeltz '470, typical towing apparatus are carried at or near the stern of the towing vessel. It was not until the Applicants teaching that a structure as claimed and having a tow rope attachment point fitted at a bridging portion located generally above and proximate the operator station, as called for in independent claims 1, 6, and 11. Respectfully, it would seem that only the cited Japanese patent publication JP (195), appearing not to be a prior art reference, introduces a framed structure attached to the vessel away from the stern. Dependent claims 2-5, 7-10, and 12-16 add yet further limitations and they too are felt to distinguish over the prior art.

Regarding an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), the Examiner is asked to enter and consider the references cited in Applicant's Transmittal of Information Disclosure Statement in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b) timely filed on May 24, 2004. A copy of the Post Card Receipt having a 28 May 2004 receipt stamp from the Office, and IDS related filed documents are hereto attached for the convenience of the examiner. For the convenience of the Examiner and for efficiently advancing this application to allowance, a Terminal Disclaimer is attached to obviate a double patenting rejection over a prior related patent.

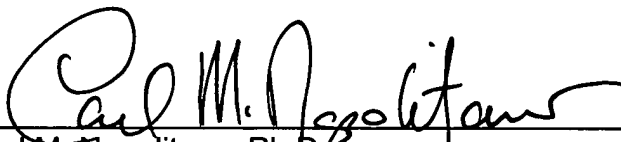
Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments place this application

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in a condition for allowance, and passage to issue is respectfully solicited. The Applicants and the undersigned would like to again thank the Examiner for his efforts in the examination of this application and for the examination of the claims now in the case. If the further prosecution of the application can be facilitated through telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

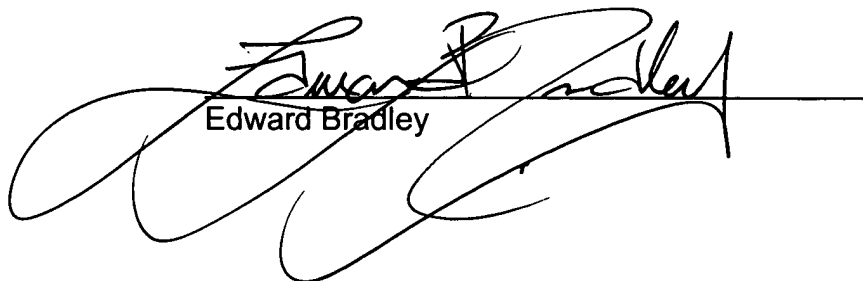


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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, this 29th day of November, 2004.



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Edward Bradley